

To avoid Richardson, we've stated in the new claim method steps of the flow chart of FIG. 4. Clearly, Richardson does not teach or anticipate under 102 the recited new steps of the new claims.

Richardson uses a "digital data or code" which is integral to the code to be protected and which generates a registration number based on information supplied by the user. The code then is generated at another location, and matched.

But, he does not use in any manner or make obvious in any manner, installing a module in a blank space of a software which identifies the licensed user, so that only that user when using the software will have executed properly the software. On the other hand, if the blank space is not filled with the module, the duplication for use by another apparatus will not allow execution of the software because of that blank area not being suitably filled in.

The inventor wishes to add the following technical comments:

---- My invention is different from USP 5,490,216, as follows.

The Function and Certification blocks are separated respectively in software of my invention. The method of Certification can be changed without changing the Function block. The software itself does not need to be perfect. The Certification information is included in the module which was produced by a self-destructive program which is user activated. Advantageously, the software's processing is completed by use of only the user's operation.

In contrast, the software of USP 5,490,216 includes a function

of Certification. The software itself has to be changed to change the method of Certification, and the function of Certification. Namely, a new software has to be distributed to change the method of Certification and the function of Certification. The software must be perfect and is activated after checking. Certification information is produced by using Key which the Registration Authority sends to a user when the User sends an information to the Registration Authority. In contrast to my invention, human operation, Communication and Time are necessary to produce Certification information. For example, a User has to input a code of 20 characters or a User has to call for informing the Registration Authority of the Code.

Thus, clearly, our invention differs completely from the disclosure of USP 5,490,216 and no extension of 216 would make obvious my invention.

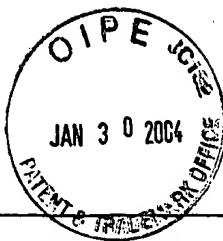
In further contrast, in our invention, the run time module .... is incorporated for use in the program body by reading it during the execution of the program and then is separated when the program is terminated (see Page 8, lines 14-20 of the instant specification). The license information 304 is created by a dedicated creation program. The creation program is self-destructive... (see page 8, lines 21-25 of the instant specification).

Accordingly, applicant respectfully solicits reconsideration and allowance.

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Respectfully  
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Claims 1-3 (cancelled herewith)

4. (new) An illegitimate duplication prevention method comprising the steps of:

starting process of installing a particular software program in a particular apparatus, said particular software program having a blank area for insertion of identification information in form of a module;

executing a creation program provided in a memory, said creation program automatically creating an identification information for said particular apparatus in form of a run-time read module and storing said identification information in a predefined address, and self destructing said creation program after creating said identification information;

deciding whether said identification information is valid for said particular apparatus; and

when said identification information is valid, installing said particular software program in said particular apparatus and causing said run-time read module to be inserted into said blank area of said software program; and then said particular apparatus executing said particular software program having said module with said identification information inserted in said blank area; and wherein

in the event said particular software program is read for duplication by an apparatus other than said particular apparatus, the duplicated software program will not act properly for the said other apparatus because the blank area will not be filled

the duplicated software program will not act properly for the said other apparatus because the blank area will not be filled with an appropriate run-time read module having an appropriate identification information.

6. (new) A medical imaging apparatus comprising medical image acquisition means for acquiring an image of a subject, image processing means for processing said image, and display means for displaying said processed image, wherein said image processing means comprises:

means for starting process of installing a particular software program in a particular apparatus, said particular software program having a blank area for insertion of identification information in form of a module;

means for executing a creation program provided in a memory, said creation program automatically creating an identification information for said particular apparatus in form of a run-time read module and storing said identification information in a predefined address, and self destructing said creation program after creating said identification information;

means for deciding whether said identification information is valid for said particular apparatus; and

when said identification information is valid, installing said particular software program in said particular apparatus and causing said run-time read module to be inserted into said blank area of said software program; and then said particular

apparatus executing said particular software program having  
said module with said identification information inserted in  
said blank area; and wherein

*a* in the event said particular software program is read for  
duplication by an apparatus other than said particular apparatus,  
the duplicated software program will not act properly for the  
said other apparatus because the blank area will not be filled  
with an appropriate run-time read module having an appropriate  
identification information.

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